

St. Bartholomew Catholic Church Guidelines for Baptism

- **Parents are required** to be registered at our parish.
- **There is a one time fee of \$50, payable prior to scheduling.**
- **Baptismal Preparation Class** : First time parents must attend classes. Parents are encouraged to attend class prior to the birth of their child. All godparent(s) and witnesses are welcome and encouraged to attend class as well. Classes are held on the first Sunday of each month.
- **Selecting Godparents:** Godparents play a very important role in your child's spiritual life. They assist the child in leading a Christian life and in faithfully fulfilling the obligations that follow from their baptism. Godparents must serve as an example of how to live the Catholic faith as the Church teaches us. They support not only the child but also the parents of the child. Godparents also stand as representative of the larger Church community. Therefore, being a godparent is not only an honor but a solemn responsibility. They should be chosen with care. The Catholic Church sets forth the following **requirements for godparents:**
 1. Each child may have a godfather and a godmother, the word 'godparents' is used in the rite to describe both." (Rite of Baptism for Children 6)
 2. Only one godparent is necessary. The godparent must be a fully initiated Catholic (Baptized, Confirmed, received Eucharist), at least 16 years old, and must be leading a sacramental life in harmony with the church. (Cf. CIC, can. 874) The godparent should be willing to accept the responsibility of assisting the parents in developing the faith life of the child.
 3. The godparent may not be the father or the mother of the one to be baptized. (Cf. CIC, can. 874)
 4. Although people of some cultures sometimes choose multiple godparents, only two names can actually be entered in the Baptismal Register. (CIC, can. 873)
 4. A baptized and believing Christian from a separated church or community may act as a Christian witness at the request of the parents, but there must be a Catholic godparent. (Cf. CIC, can. 874.)
 5. Godparents should be invited and encouraged to attend Baptismal Preparation in order to better understand their role as godparents. If they are from another parish, a Sponsor Form is required to be filled out, and signed by their pastor.
 6. Godparents may be represented by proxies if they are unable to attend the baptism. Those standing in as proxies must fulfill the same requirements as godparents.
- **Baptismal Record and Certificate:** The Baptism will be recorded in the permanent records of St. Bartholomew Catholic Church. Therefore, please be sure the accuracy of information and the spelling of names, and write clearly and distinctly. A baptismal certificate will be given to you at the baptism.
- **Clothing, Candles, and Baptismal Water:** A white Christening gown is customary, but not required. The parish will provide a Baptismal candle and after the ceremony, it will be yours to keep as a reminder of this joyous occasion. The candle can be burned on Baptismal anniversaries and when the child receives other sacraments in the future.
- **Scheduling: Baptisms will not be scheduled until all paperwork has been completed and returned.**